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Paris, France,
April 4, 1953

SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

PERSONAL

Dear Foster:

I returned here last night from a trip to Holland and Belgium. The discussions there will have been covered by telegrams from our respective Embassies.

However, I wanted to add that I believe the statement made by Van Zeeland that the Belgians would proceed immediately to push the ratification of the EDC treaty has very great significance.

As regards Holland, there is no question whatever that they will proceed, although in their usual deliberate fashion, to ratify provided they finally determine to accept the Protocol to Article 13. They are being very legalistic about this point but will, I feel confident, accept it.

The situation in France has definitely improved although there remain three elements of uncertainty: (1) the attitude of the Socialists, (2) the Saar, and (3) the possibility of the early overthrow of the Mayer Government.

As to the first, I feel that an association with the British satisfactory to the Socialists is almost completed.

As to the second, I think the admirable fashion in which you handled this issue with the French, together with your forthcoming conversations with Adenauer, should enable Mayer and Adenauer to reach a satisfactory agreement, but until that occurs it will remain a source of uncertainty from a French political standpoint.

With respect to the third, the prospects of a continuance of the Mayer Government for any extended period after the municipal elections are not bright. If it falls, we will have to do our utmost to induce any new Government to take up EDC

Dulles, John Foster

The Honorable
John Foster Dulles,
Secretary of State,
Washington 25, D. C.

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ratification as its first and primary concern.

I shall be here when you come over for the NATO meeting. I know that you will be incessantly occupied but if on Sunday, April 26, Janet and yourself would like to come down to lunch with us at Versailles we would love to arrange it. In that event, it might be nice to have Phyllis and Douglas Dillon with us. I am leaving that night for Italy to attend a meeting to which one of the European organizations for federalization has invited 500 journalists.

Very sincerely yours,

David Bruce

DB:GES

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